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09/820,530	03/29/2001	Kazutoyo Maehiro	P23936	5426

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.		
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE		
RESTON, VA 20191		

EXAMINER
LEE, PHILIP C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2152	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/18/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/820,530	MAEHIRO, KAZUTOYO
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHILIP C. LEE	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 June 2008</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-9 and 11-16</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-9 and 11-16</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

1.   This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on June 20, 2008.

2.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/20/08 has been entered.

3.   Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are presented for examination and claim 10 is canceled.

4.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. code not included in this office action can be

found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

   The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making
   and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it
   pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode
   contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6.   Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to

comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which

was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the

relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the

claimed invention. The limitation of "the password being used for initiating and authenticating

setting the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game terminal" in claims 1 (lines

26-27), 5 (lines 23-24), and 9 (lines 23-24) is not supported by the specification. Specifically,

page 11, lines 17-19 of the specification merely disclose that "…a chat name 304 and a chat

password 305 which are required to request the message server 113 to open the chat room." The

specification does not disclose the password being used for "initiating and authenticating", or the

password being used for *initiating and authenticating setting the area in the storage section of*

the chairman's video game terminal. The specification discloses that the setup information is

stored, however, it does not mention password initiating setting the storage area of the

chairman's video game terminal. For examination purpose, the limitation of "the password

being used for *initiating and authenticating setting the area in the storage section of the*

chairman's video game terminal " is interpreted according to page 9, lines 7-10 of the

specification, which discloses "…a user accesses the authentication server 111 from the video

game machine 103a or 103b or the general-purpose computer 104a or 104b via the Internet 101,

to have the user authenticated."

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

7.   Claims 1-9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Morris et al, U.S. Patent 7,216,144 (hereinafter Morris), Slutsman et al, U.S. Patent 7,177,905

(hereinafter Slutsman), and Tatham et al, U.S. Patent 6,223,177 (hereinafter Tatham) in view of

Luzeski et al, U.S. Patent 6,430,177 (hereinafter Luzeski).

8.   Morris, Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski were cited in the previous office action.

9.   As per claims 1 and 9, Morris teaches the invention substantially as claimed in which a

chairman who opens an electronic conference (col. 2, lines 37-41)sets an area (it is inherent that

a virtual space must be set for storing chat messages (col. 2, lines 9-29)) on a database (e.g.,

server 100) for storing chat messages, and in which guests who join said electronic chat send

requests for access from video game terminals of the guests (col. 12, lines 32-33), the method

comprising:

        giving an instruction from the chairman's video game terminal for transmission of said

invitation message (col. 12, lines 22-25)(e.g., clicks on the "SEND" button),

        transmitting from the chairman's video game terminal an invitation signal comprising

said setup information to said guests' video game terminals based on only said instruction (col.

12, lines 22-32), and

        the database area storing chat messages that are sent to and from the video game terminal

(col. 2, lines 9-35).

10.   Morris does not teach storing setup information in a storage section of a chairman's game

terminal. Slutsman teaches comprising:

        storing setup information for setting said area in a storage section of a chairman's

terminal (col. 2, lines 49-56, 60-62; col. 3, lines 4-10)(storing session ID in host terminal),

creating from the chairman's terminal an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in a storage section (col. 3, lines 4-10)(creating a message with session ID stored and missing information, which are part of the conference request),

receiving at the guests' terminals said invitation signal and obtaining said setup information (col. 3, lines 17-28),

creating at the guests' terminals access request signals comprising said setup information (col. 3, lines 30-33), and

transmitting from the guests' terminals to said database (WSCP), said access request signals solely in response to each guest's instruction (col. 3, lines 30-33) (it is inherent that transmission of conference response is in response to the participant's instructions (e.g., clicks on "SEND" or "ACCEPT" button)); and

wherein the setup information being used for initiating setting the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game terminal (col. 2, lines 49-56; col. 3, lines 4-6).

11.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Morris and Slutsman because Slutsman's teaching of storing setup information at the chairman's terminal would enhance the conference negotiating mechanism in Morris's systems by allowing all potential conference participants to use the session identifier for conference negotiation communication to identify the conference to which the communication applies (col. 2, lines 49-56).

12.   Morris and Slutsman do not teach wherein the setup information includes a password.
Tatham teaches wherein setup information includes a password (col. 5, lines 9-15), which is
communicated from the chairman's video game terminal to a server and/or the guests' video
game terminals without modification (col. 5, line 58-col. 6, line 7), the password being used for
authenticating the area in the storage section of the database (col. 5, lines 58-62).

13.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention
was made to combine the teachings of Morris, Slutsman and Tatham because Tatham's teaching
of including a password would increase the security of Morris's and Slutsman's systems by
preventing unauthorized user to gain access to their systems.

14.   Morris, Slutsman and Tatham do not teach setup information is not visible on guests'
video game terminal. Luzeski teaches wherein the setup information is not visible on the user's
terminals (col. 7, lines 40-43).

15.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention
was made to combine the teachings of Morris, Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski because Luzeski's
teaching of setup information is not visible on the user's terminals would increase the efficiency
of Morris's, Slutsman's and Tatham's systems by allowing subsequent communication to be
accompanied by setup information without re-entry of the setup information.

16.   As per claim 5, Morris teaches the invention substantially as claimed in which a chairman

who opens an electronic conference (col. 2, lines 37-41)sets an area (it is inherent that a virtual

space must be set for storing chat messages (col. 2, lines 9-29)) on a database (e.g., server 100),

the database area storing chat messages that are sent to and from terminals (col. 2, lines 9-35)

and in which guests who join said electronic conference send requests for access from video

game terminals of the guests (col. 12, lines 32-33), comprises

an instruction device that gives an instruction for transmission of said invitation message created

by an invitation message creator(col. 12, lines 22-25)(e.g., clicks on the "SEND" button), and an

invitation signal transmitter that transmits an invitation signal comprising said setup information

to said guests' video game terminals solely in response to said instruction from the instruction

device (col. 12, lines 22-32).

17.   Morris does not teach chairman's video game terminal comprising a storage that stores

setup information. Slutsman teaches comprising: a chairman's terminal comprising a storage that

stores setup information for setting said area (col. 2, lines 49-56, 60-62; col. 3, lines 4-10)

(storing session ID in host terminal), an invitation message creator that creates an invitation

message comprising said setup information stored in said storage (col. 3, lines 4-10)(creating a

message with session ID stored and missing information, which are part of the conference

request), and

said guests' terminals comprising a setup information retriever that receives said invitation signal

and obtains said setup information(col. 3, lines 17-28),

an access request signal source that creates an access request signals comprising said

setup information obtained by the setup information retriever (col. 3, lines 30-33), and a request

signal transmitter that transmits to said database (WSCP), said access request signals created at

said access request signal source solely in response to each guest's instruction (col. 3, lines 30-

33) (it is inherent that transmission of conference response is in response to the participant's

instructions (e.g., clicks on "SEND" or "ACCEPT" button)) ; and

wherein the setup information being used for initiating setting the area in the storage

section of the chairman's video game terminal (col. 2, lines 49-56; col. 3, lines 4-6).

18.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to combine the teachings of Morris and Slutsman because Slutsman's teaching of

storing setup information at the chairman's terminal would enhance the conference negotiating

mechanism in Morris's systems by allowing all potential conference participants to use the

session identifier for conference negotiation communication to identify the conference to which

the communication applies (col. 2, lines 49-56).

19.   Morris and Slutsman do not teach wherein the setup information includes a password.

Tatham teaches wherein setup information includes a password (col. 5, lines 9-15), which is

communicated from the chairman's video game terminal to a server and/or the guests' video

game terminals without modification (col. 5, line 58-col. 6, line 7), the password being used for

authenticating the area in the storage section of the database (col. 5, lines 58-62).

20.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Morris, Slutsman and Tatham because Tatham's teaching of including a password would increase the security of Morris's and Slutsman's systems by preventing unauthorized user to gain access to their systems.

21.   Morris, Slutsman and Tatham do not teach setup information is not visible on guests' video game terminal. Luzeski teaches wherein the setup information is not visible on the user's terminals (col. 7, lines 40-43).

22.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Morris, Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski because Luzeski's teaching of setup information is not visible on the user's terminals would increase the efficiency of Morris's, Slutsman's and Tatham's systems by allowing subsequent communication to be accompanied by setup information without re-entry of the setup information.

23.   As per claims 2 and 6, Morris, Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 1 and 5 above. Morris further teach wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database (col. 12, lines 26-31)(e.g., chat room name).

24.   As per claims 3 and 7, Morris, Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially as claimed in claims 1 and 5 above. Morris and Slutsman further teach comprising:

receiving at the chairman's terminal, an opening response signal from said server, said opening

response signal indicating that said area has been set in said database, said opening response

signal comprises an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database (see

Slutsman, col. 2, lines 49-56, 60-62; col. 3, lines 4-10),

transmitting from the chairman's terminal said invitation signal containing said ID number (see

Morris, col. 12, lines 22-32; see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24), and

adding said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal (see

Slutsman, col. 3, lines 30-33).

25.   As per claims 4 and 8, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention

substantially as claimed in claims 3 and 7 above. Morris further teach wherein said setup

information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for

accessing said area of said database (col. 12, lines 26-31)(e.g., chat room name).

26.   As per claim 11, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 1 above. Morris further teach creating from the chairman's video game

terminal a chat opening message comprising a type of the chat opening message (1000, fig. 10),

a message title (Buddy Chat, fig. 10), and a text box (Invitation message box, fig. 10), which are

required to transmit the invitation message to the guests' video game terminal (col. 12, lines 19-

25), giving an instruction from the chairman's video game terminal for transmission of the chat

opening message (col. 12, lines 19-25), transmitting from the chairman's video game terminal a

chat opening signal based on the instruction (col. 12, lines 19-25).

27.   As per claim 12, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 11 above. Morris and Tatham further teach comprising input columns for an

alias name of the chairman (see Morris, buddy chat room box, fig. 10) and the password which

are required to request the server to open an electronic conference room (see Tatham, col. 5,

lines 9-15; col. 5, line 58-col. 6, line 7).

28.   As per claim 13, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 11 above. Morris further teach the input columns for the alias name in the

chat opening message is displayed as an electronic conference room name in the invitation

message (col. 12, lines 28-31).

29.   As per claim 14, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 11 above. Although Morris further teach transmitting a command for

inviting selected guests from the chairman's video game terminal (col. 12, lines 19-25); and

editing the invitation message by selecting guests while the chat opening process is in progress

(col. 12, lines 21-22), however, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski do not teach selecting

guests from address book. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to include selecting names to invite from address book (e.g., buddy

list) because by doing so it would increase the efficiency of their systems by allowing names to

be referenced by the address book, hence allowing a user to quickly retrieve contact name (e.g.

screen names). Noted that it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made that "yipster666" selected in fig. 10 of Morris's reference could be a one of the screen

name from the buddy list 210 shown in fig. 2).

30.   As per claim 15, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 3 above. Morris, Slutsman and Tatham further teach generating command

for inviting selected guests by obtaining the alias name (see Morris, fig. 10) and the password

(see Tatham, col. 5, lines 5-19; col. 5, line 58-col. 6, line 7) from the chat opening message and

obtaining the chat ID from the opening response signal (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24; col. 5,

lines 44-53).

31.   As per claim 16, Morris, Slutsman Tatham and Luzeski teach the invention substantially

as claimed in claim 15 above. Slutsman, Tatham and Luzeski further teach wherein the

password and the chat ID are recognized by the guests' video game terminals during the

exchange of the signals (see Slutsman, col. 3, lines 17-24; col. 5, lines 44-53; see Tatham, col. 5,

lines 5-19; col. 5, line 58-col. 6, line 7) but are not communicated to the guest through the screen

(see Luzeski, col. 7, lines 40-43)

CONCLUSION

32.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 and 11-16, filed 06/20/08, have been

fully considered but they are not persuasive.

33.   In the remarks, applicant argued that:

>   (1)   The cited prior arts fail to teach initiating and authenticating setting
>
>   the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game terminal.

34.   In response to point (1), as stated above, the limitation of the password being used for

initiating and authenticating setting the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game

terminal" in claims 1 (lines 26-27), 5 (lines 23-24), and 9 (lines 23-24) is not supported by the

specification. For examination purpose, the limitation of "the password being used for *initiating*

and authenticating setting the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game terminal

" is interpreted according to page 9, lines 7-10 of the specification. The combination of

Slutsman and Tatham teaches initiating and authenticating setting the area in the storage section

of the chairman's video game terminal according to the interpretation as stated above.

Specifically, Slutsman teaches WSCP receives the conference request from the conference host

(chairman game terminal) and assigns a unique conference negotiation session-ID to the request

conference. The session-ID is used accordingly between the WSCP, the host and all potential

conference participants in all future pre-conference negotiation communication to identify the

conference to which the communication applies (col. 2, lines 49-56). This means the assignment

of the session-ID to the conference host must trigger (i.e., initiating) the conference host to store

(i.e., setting) the session-ID in order to be retrieved by the host and included in future host

communication (chairman game terminal communication) for the conference identification (i.e.,

initiating setting the area in the storage section of the chairman's video game terminal).

Slutsman does not teach the setup information includes password. Tatham teaches wherein setup

information includes a password (col. 5, lines 9-15), the password being used for gaining access

to the workgroup (col. 5, lines 58-62) such as a chat room (col. 6, lines 14-16) (i.e.,

authenticating the area in the storage section of the database).

35.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or

earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone

number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM

Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are

unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-

3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained

from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more

information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions

on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-

9197 (toll-free).

/Philip C Lee/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2152